



# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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## **Newsletter**

Volume 42 – Issue 17

Friday, 6 November - Term 4, Week 4

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

While it may be hard to believe, the 2020 school year has come to an end with all students in Years 7 to 10 completing their Semester Two exams by next week. Following Transition Week, our new school year commences on Monday, 16 November. Specific details of what's happening over the next week are included elsewhere in this Newsletter. I would ask you to note that next Thursday and Friday 12 and 13 November, are Student Free Days. This allows teachers to complete the marking of exams and reports for the 2020 school year.

With the new school year comes new staffing arrangements and I would like to warmly welcome Mr Trent White (Standard English) and Ms Natalie Piccini (Front Office) to staff. I extend a very warm welcome to both of these new staff.

I would also like to publicly thank Ms Therese McDonogh who is finishing her current contract at SMCC next week. Therese has been with the College for the last 3+ years and we thank her for all that she has done for us during her time here.

On Saturday, 14 November we will host our annual **Year 12 Formal** at the Casino RSM Club. Even though the night will be different to our usual celebration, I know that you will join me in wishing them the best for a great night, and for their future.

With a new school year comes a new timetable. This year, to add to the complexity, we will also be moving out of C Block as we are hoping for the demolition to take place during the Christmas holidays. This will hopefully allow the construction of the new building to begin in the new year. We will be utilising many other spaces in the College for classrooms, but we will keep class disruption to a minimum. As plans become firmer, more information will be issued.

Our annual **Orientation Day** for our incoming **Year 7 students** will be held on Friday, 20 November. We look forward to welcoming our new students on this day.

On behalf of the entire College community I would like to offer condolences to the family of Lakhisha Walker (Year 9) on the death of her Grandfather. May he rest in peace.

Finally, with Remembrance Day next week, I would like to finish with a poem from Rupert McCall to help us remember the sacrifice made by so many so long ago, to give us the freedom to live as we do.

*The Australian soldier, grows not old, the flame still lights his eyes,  
Although his body lays to rest, his flag forever flies.*

*On the green and gold horizon where the wattles sweep and sway,  
It flies amongst the gardens and the classrooms of today.*

*Over oceans streams and backyard dreams, above the sunburnt plain,  
Through harvest yields on sporting fields, in rainbows after rain.*

*It defines a life worth living and a day that must be won,  
For every father's daughter, and every mother's son.*

*But more than that, the honour claimed in fighting for the free,  
The Proud Australian soldier burns in you and me.*

*When the night is dark and dangerous, with the rumble of the storm,  
We will not forget their sacrifice - the strength of their endeavour.  
For the choices we are gifted with, that flame will burn forever.*

*With a smile that lights the future shining brightly in our scope,  
We will stand as one together - we will carry on with hope.*

*But as we go, we take the words that rightfully belong  
"I am young and I am worthy, I am brave and I am strong.  
In the face of any challenge, I will strive to rise above. I deserve this opportunity to live, to learn to love.  
I can truly make a difference. My path is up to me  
And this is my commitment - Be the best that I can be"*  
**(Rupert McCall, 2011)**

Yours sincerely



Tracy Robinson  
**Principal**

### **PARISH MASS TIMES**

**WEEKEND MASS**  
**6 pm (Sat) & 8 am (Sun)**

**WEEKDAYS**

Monday 9.00am, Tues 8.00am  
Wed 8.00am  
Thurs 9.00am ,  
**Fri 9.00am (Until further notice)**  
Sat 9.00am

**RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 8.45 (Prayer of Penance)

**BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS FUNERALS**  
(Contact Parish office for details)

**Masks are recommended for those attending  
Mass.**

Only 60 people in the Church.

### **FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

Year 10 students have just completed their final Semester Two exams. All students in Years 7-9 will have completed theirs by Wednesday next week. Year 10 students will attend school on Monday to Wednesday. During these three days they will complete the compulsory NESAs program *All My Own Work* – a program designed to help HSC students follow the principles and practices of good scholarship, as well and attend sessions that focus on preparing them for senior study. Their Senior study program begins on Monday, 16 November.

Please note that there will be pupil free days on Thursday and Friday next week to allow teachers to mark exams and complete reports. These two pupil free days will also allow parents to check that the College uniform is clean and repaired if necessary.

#### **Uniform matters**

We have noted an increasing number of students who persist in wearing their sports uniform on non-sport days saying that they felt like it or that mum wrote me a note.

We ask that you work with us to ensure that your daughters and sons wear their full College uniform on non-sports days. Students should only wear their sports uniform on non-sports days when there is a specific issue such as when it is damaged, dirty etc. We place students on uniform detention when they do not wear the proper uniform and cannot present a parental signed note with an adequate reason.

#### **Attendance**

Monday, 16 November is the start of our new academic year so it is important to remind parents of ensuring that your daughters and sons:

- arrive at school on time ready for Home Room at 8:45am every day
- have consistent attendance at school.

The excerpt below is from the Victorian State Government Department of Education and Training and it highlights the importance of daily attendance:

### ***Why attendance is important***

Daily attendance is important for all children and young people to succeed in education and to ensure they don't fall behind both socially and developmentally:

- School participation maximises life opportunities for children and young people by providing them with education and support networks;
- School helps children to develop important skills, knowledge and values that set them up for further learning and participation in their community;
- School helps them to make the most of life opportunities.

Children and young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12, or an equivalent qualification, have:

- better health outcomes;
- better employment outcomes;
- higher incomes across their lives.

Research confirms there is a strong link between poor attendance and adverse student outcomes like:

- early school leaving;
- poverty;
- substance use;
- unemployment;
- negative health outcomes.

Regular absences from school may also be a critical indicator of disengagement, leading to adverse outcomes. It is an easily observable warning sign. A child missing one day a fortnight will miss four weeks in a year, and more than a year of school by Year 10. It is important that children develop regular attendance habits at an early age.

*Greg Colles*

**Acting Assistant Principal**

### **FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – MISSION**

#### **Senior Retreat - Tyalgum Ridge Retreat – Monday, 30 November – Wednesday, 2 December**

All current Years 10 and 11 students will attend the 2020 Senior Retreat.

Senior Retreats are consistently reported by students as one of the highlights of their school experience and represent an important part of their spiritual development. The Senior Retreat is a compulsory part of the program at St Mary's Catholic College and as such it is expected that all students will be in attendance. Current Year 11 students and their parents/carers have been provided with a permission note via email. Current Year 10 students will have received their permission notes last week. Notes are due to the office by Monday, 16 November.

#### **Never Stop**

The new Wildfire song *Never Stop* was launched two weeks ago. To accompany this launch schools have been invited to interact through contribution to a montage video. Our YMOs will be working with students at St Mary's as we contribute to this montage.

Find *Never Stop* on [Spotify](#) and [Youtube](#).

#### **November - A Month of Remembrance**

November is traditionally the month in which the Church remembers Her dead, and in a special way we are invited to remember our family and friends who have died, especially those who have passed in the previous year. The Month of Remembrance commences on 1 November with All Saints Day, which is a feast that is celebrated by the Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran and Anglican Churches. This is then followed on 2 November by All Souls Day, where we remember and pray for the dead.

Throughout November Masses are offered for the Holy Souls. Prayer Request Forms can be found at the College Office or on the table at the front foyer of the Church. Those who would like to have prayers offered for their deceased family and friends are invited to fill out a form and return it to the College Office. These will be placed on the basket located at the altar at St Mary's.

## Thank You

Thank you for supporting this year's Catholic Mission Fundraiser. Our Crazy Sock Day raised \$51.75. This money will support the work of Catholic Mission in Australia and in the Asia Pacific so that they can continue to make the love of Jesus Christ real - both spiritually and physically.

*Margaret Bertalli*

**Acting Assistant Principal - Mission**

## **FROM THE LEADER OF CURRICULUM**

### **Year 7 - 9 Semester 2 Exams**

Year 7 - 9 will be sitting for their Semester 2 exams starting from today through to Wednesday of Week 5. Included below are links to the Semester 2 Exams timetables. Please note that not all subjects will have exams.

- [Year 7](#)
- [Year 8](#)
- [Year 9](#)

Please contact the College if you have any questions with regards to the above.

### **Year 10 Semester 2 Exams and Program for Week 5**

Year 10 students complete their Semester 2 exams today (Timetable linked to below).

- [Year 10](#)

They will then be following an alternative program from Monday through to Wednesday of Week 5. The three days are compulsory school days and are extremely important. The program will be a mix of sessions designed to help them adjust to the demands of Year 11 and normal lessons where they may go through their exam responses.

Stage preparatory sessions will include:

- All My Own Work (AMOW), which is a requirement from NESA to allow enrolment in Stage 6.
- Google Drive & Gmail set up to ensure that information from the school with regards to their subject selections, etc. is not "lost".
- Study skills workshops to help with coping with the substantially increased workload of being in Year 11. It is important to realise that students will be going from about 6 lessons a fortnight per subject to 16 lessons for the majority of their subjects.

*Michael Woerner*

**Leader of Curriculum**

## **FROM THE LEADER OF WELFARE**

This week Headspace have been presenting workshops to students in Years 7-10. Topics included: resilience building/skills, respectful relationships and friendships, anxiety/stress workshop identifying different levels of anxiety and seeking help, everyday relaxation and stress reduction techniques and general tips for healthy headspace.

*Michele McCaffery*

**Leader of Welfare**

## **UNIFORM SHOP**

### **Uniform Shop Opening Hours**

The Uniform Shop is now located in the Front Office and will be open on the following days:

Tuesday – 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Thursday – 2.00pm to 5.00pm.

*Payments of cash, cheque or EFTPOS are welcome.*

### **SECOND HAND UNIFORMS**

Sustainable School Shop is an online shop dedicated to buying and selling of second hand uniforms. For more information ring 1300683337 or visit [www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au).

*Please note that this facility is available for use with the new College uniforms only.*